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Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03993 151432Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-11 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
OIC-02 /159 W
----------119239 151449Z /50
P 151305Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7210

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USMTN

STR FOR ACTION

STR PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD
SUBJECT: MTN: NTM GROUP 7 PLUS 7, 10 MARCH 1978

REF: (A) GENEVA 2263; (B) 77 GENEVA 6185

1. SUMMARY: EXPANDED 7 PLUS 7 OF GROUP NON-TARIFF MEASURES MET TO REVIEW STATUS OF REQUEST/OFFERS EXERCISE ON NTM'S. EGYPTIAN DEL'S PLEA TO ADDRESS LDC DIFFICULTIES WITH THE ANTIDUMPING CODE WITHIN AN MTN CONTEXT MET WITH LITTLE SUPPORT, AND CHAIRMAN URGED INTERESTED DELS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE INFORMALLY TO CLARIFY FURTHER THE ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 03993 151432Z

2. GATT CHAIRMAN OF GROUP NON-TARIFF MEASURES (MATHUR) CALLED AN EXPANDED 7 PLUS 7 MEETING OF THE GROUP ON 10 MARCH TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF THE NTM REQUEST AND OFFER EXERCISE. MATHUR REPORTED THAT SINCE THE PREVIOUS INFORMAL MEETING (REF (A)) OFFERS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM FOUR COUNTRIES (CANADA, SWITZERLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND HUNGARY). MATHUR INQUIRED IF ANY ADDITIONAL RE-

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

QUESTS AND OR OFFERS WERE BEING PREPARED AND IF BI-
LATERAL MEETINGS WERE UNDERWAY TO DISCUSS THE REQUESTS
AND OFFERS ALREADY TABLED. U.S. (NEWKIRK), EC (ABBOTT),
AND NORDICS (HAGFORS) SAID THAT THEIR DELEGATIONS WERE
ACTIVELY PURSUING BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON REQUESTS AND
OFFERS. U.S. DEL REPORTED THAT SUPPLEMENTAL OFFERS
ADDRESSING REQUESTS RECEIVED AFTER THE INITIAL PRE-
PARATION OF U.S. OFFERS HAD BEEN TABLED. THE EC, IMPLI-
CITLY CONFIRMING THE AMBIGUITY OF THEIR OFFER, SAID
THAT THEIR OFFER WAS "VALID FOR ALL REQUESTS" (I.E.,
WILLING TO DISCUSS REQUESTS BILATERALLY). AUSTIRA
(SEGALLA) INDICATED THAT THEY ARE PREPARING MORE SPECIFIC
OFFERS, NEW ZEALAND (GREIG) STATED THAT A TEAM FROM NEW
WELLINGTON IS ARRIVING OVER THE WEEKEND WITH THEIR
OFFERS ON NON-TARIFF MEASURES AS WELL AS ON TARIFFS
AND AGRICULTURE, AND SOUTH AFRICA (LOWRY) EXPECTED
OFFERS ON NTM'S IN THE NEAR FUTURE, NOTING THAT THEY
HAD JUST RECEIVED THEIR TARIFF OFFER. MATHUR POINTEDLY
RAISED QUESTION OF WHETHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE
IN A POSITION TO INDICATE IF THEY WOULD BE TABLING
OFFERS, NOTING THAT 56 INDICATIVE LISTS TO LDC'S HAD
BEEN SUBMITTED. NO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RESPONDED.

3. ANTIDUMPING: EGYPTIAN DEL (HAMZA) DISTRIBUTED
TEXT OF REMARKS HE HAD MADE ON ANTIDUMPING AT THE JULY
1977 NTM GROUP MEETING (REF (B)) (DOCUMENT IS DISTRIBU-
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 03993 151432Z

TED AS MTN/NTM/W/134 AND IS BEING HAND-CARRIED TO
WASHINGTON BY ABLESON). HAMZA WAS NOT INSISTENT ON
THE FORUM WHERE LDC PROBLEMS WITH THE GATT ANTIDUMPING
CODE SHOULD BE SOLVED, E.G. IN A NEW SUBGROUP OR IN THE
NTM GROUP, BUT REITERATED HIS LEGAL ARGUMENTS THAT
THE GATT ANTIDUMPING COMMITTEE DID NOT HAVE COMPETENCE
UNDER ARTICLE 17 OF CODE TO TAKE ACTION ON THIS
ISSUE. EGYPT WAS JOINED BY INDIA IN HOPING THAT DC'S
WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO HIS PLEA. EC REMARKED THAT
FAILURE OF PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON THE CENTRAL LDC
DESIRE TO REDEFINE DUMPING DID NOT BODE WELL FOR FUTURE
DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ISSUE. THE KEY ISSUE IN THE EC'S
MIND IS WHETHER THE CODE SHOULD BE CHANGED OR WHETHER
DEROGATIONS SHOULD BE PERMITTED FOR LDC'S FROM THE CODE'S
OBLIGATION. U.S. REITERATED ITS WELL-KNOWN POSITION ON
THIS QUESTION AND NOTED THAT PROBLEMS WITH THE CODE
RAISED BY EGYPT WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE U.S. ANTI-
DUMPING EXPERTS SO THAT THEY CAN TAKE THEM INTO ACCOUNT
IN THEIR PRESENT REVIEW OF THE CODE IN THE GATT ANTI-
DUMPING COMMITTEE. MATHUR, SENSING A LACK OF RESOLUTION
ON THE ISSUE, ASKED DELS TO PURSUE DISCUSSIONS INFORMALLY
TO CLARIFY FURTHER THE SITUATION.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

4. MATHUR CONCLUDED THE MEETING WITH A SUGGESTIDN THAT THE EXPANDED 7 PLUS 7 GROUP MEET AGAIN IN ABOUT ONE MONTH'S TIME.

5. DRAFTED BY WALLAR. MCDONALD

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